

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 EUR-12 IO-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 NEA-10 /105 W

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R 171500Z DEC 75

FM AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2988

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LOURENCO MARQUES

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO

AMCONSUL SAO PAULO

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

UNCLAS BRASILIA 10778

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR PINT BR AO

SUBJECT: ANGOLAN RECOGNITION: FOREIGN MINISTER STILL UNDER ATTACK

REF: (A) BRASILIA 9965 (NOTAL); (B) STATE 295204

SUMMARY. WHILE ISSUE HAD SUBSIDED IN MUCH OF BRAZILIAN PRESS, COUNTRY'S TWO LEADING PAPERS HAVE CONTINUED ATTACK ON FOREIGN MINISTER SILVEIRA OVER ANGOLAN RECOGNITION. ARGUMENTS HAVE CONTINUED TO STRESS ISOLATION OF BRAZILIAN POSITION: O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO DECEMBER 13 INTRODUCED NEW ELEMENT WITH ASSERTION THAT SOVIET-CUBAN MILITARY CONTINGENT IN ANGOLA POSED THREAT TO BRAZILIAN NATIONAL SECURITY, ANTICIPATING MOYNIHAN STATEMENT OF DECEMBER 14 ON THREAT TO BRAZIL, WHICH GIVEN FRONT-PAGE PLAY IN ESTADO. END SUMMARY.

1. WHILE ISSUE HAS SUBSIDED IN MUCH OF BRAZILIAN PRESS,

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PRESTIGIOUS O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO AND RIO'S JORNAL DO BRASIL

HAVE CONTINUED ATTACKS ON FOREIGN MINISTER SILVEIRA OVER ANGOLAN RECOGNITION. IN STRONGLY WORDED EDITORIAL DECEMBER 11, ESTADO SCORED "OBSTINACY" OF MINISTRY'S DEFENSE OF ITS POSITION AND LABELED ARGUMENTS "IMPENITENT, IMPERTINENT, AND PROVOCATIVE" AS WELL AS INSULTING TO INTELLIGENCE OF BRAZILIAN CITIZENS AND SHOCKING TO "MORAL SENSIBILITY". CITING MINISTRY STATEMENT THAT IT WAS UNAWARE OF U.S. PRESS INFORMATION THAT SOME 5,000 CUBANS IN ANGOLA HELPING MPLA, EDITORIAL CALLED THIS GOOD POLICY FOR OSTRICHES BUT UNPRECEDENTED IN HUMAN HISTORY FOR CIVILIZED COUNTRY WITH ASPIRATIONS TO WORLD ROLE, AND WENT ON TO NOTE THAT CUBAN WEEKLY BOHEMIA ALSO "REGOGNIZED THE MILITARY AND MILITANT SOLIDARITY WHICH THE SOCIALIST BLOC IS LENDING THE COMMUNIST LIBERATION OF ANGOLA".

2. TAKING UP ARGUMENT THAT ANGOLAN RECOGNITION WAS PART OF MORE "BRAZILIAN" AND "INDEPENDENT" FOREIGN POLICY, ESTADO DECLARED, "THE FACT, HOWEVER, IS THAT 'THE UNCONDITIONAL AND AUTOMATIC ALIGNMENT WITH U.S. POSITIONS' (WHICH FURTHERMORE NEVER EXISTED) HAS BEEN REPLACED BY AN ALMOST UNCONDITIONAL AND AUTOMATIC ALIGNMENT NOT JUST WITH ARAB POSITIONS BUT, WHAT IS WORSE, WITH SOVIET UNION POSITIONS, SINCE BRAZIL IS THE ONLY WESTERN COUNTRY WHICH RECOGNIZED THE GOVERNMENT OF LUANDA, SATELLITE OF MOSCOW AND HAVANA, ITS VOTE WAS NOT ANTI-AMERICAN (A LESS IMPORTANT ASPECT OF THE CASE), BUT ANTI-BRAZILIAN AND PRO-SOVIET". AFTER NOTING A REPORT THAT THE PORTUGUESE GOVERNMENT HAD RESISTED "HEAVY PRESSURE" FROM THE SOVIET AMBASSADOR IN LISBON, ESTADO ASKED, "WHICH IS THE HYPOTHESIS WE SHOULD ACCEPT TO EXPLAIN THE FOREIGN MINISTRY'S ACTION: THAT BRAZILIAN DIPLOMACY GAVE IN TO SOVIET PRESSURES, OR THAT IT IS SO DOCILE THAT IT DIDN'T EVEN NEED TO BE PRESSURED?..."

3. ESTADO RETURNED TO ATTACK TWO DAYS LATER IN EDITORIAL WHICH REVIEWED EARLIER ARGUMENTS, NOTED INCREASINGLY FRANK CUBAN DECLARATIONS OF INVOLVEMENT, AND SAID THAT "NATURALLY" THE MATTER BELONGS NOT JUST TO ONE EXECUTIVE-BRANCH DEPARTMENT BUT TO "THE WHOLE SYSTEM, INCLUDING THE ARMED FORCES JOINT STAFF AND EVEN THE EXTERNAL NATIONAL SECURITY SERVICES. IN EFFECT, THANKS TO THE PRESENCE OF THE SOVIET-CUBAN MILITARY CONTINGENT IN ANGOLA, NOT ONLY WILL THE SOUTH ATLANTIC, AN AREA VITAL TO THE NATIONAL SECURITY, BE EXPOSED TO THE CONTROL OF THE AERONAVAL UNCLASSIFIED

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FORCES OF AN EXTRA-HEMISPHERIC SUPERPOWER IDEOLOGICALLY AND POLITICALLY HOSTILE TO OUR REGIME, BUT ALSO BRAZIL, WITHIN RANGE OF SOVIET ROCKETS AND PLANES, WILL BE SURROUNDED FROM THE CARIBBEAN TO AFRICA..."

4. FOLLOWING DAY (DEC. 14), IMPORTANT JORNAL DO BRASIL RAN Milder EDITORIAL WHICH IDENTIFIED ANGOLA AS POSSIBLE "VIETNAM FOR USSR", REVIEWED CUBAN ASSERTIONS OF INVOLVEMENT, NOTED EARLIER

STATEMENTS BY SECRETARY KISSINGER AND AMBASSADOR MOYNIHAN, AND
CONCLUDED, "WITH RELATION TO ANGOLA, ONLY THE BRAZILIAN GOVERN-
MENT IS TRANQUIL. IT HASTENED TO RECOGNIZE THE INDEPENDENCE,
AND WITH THAT BELIEVES IT HAS MADE ITS PRESENCE KNOWN THERE
AND ASSURED ITSELF AN AREA OF INFLUENCE WHICH WE WOULD HAVE AN
INTEREST IN KEEPING AN EYE ON, AMONG OTHER REASONS, BECAUSE OF OUR
(COMMON) PORTUGUESE-LANGUAGE HERITAGE. IN THE MEANTIME, THE
INTERVENTIONIST PROCESS IN ANGOLA IS ENDANGERING ITS (BRAZIL'S)
AFFILIATION WITH THE WESTERN CAUSE AND SOUTH ATLANTIC
STRATEGY".
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